



Economic and Social Council

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Economic Commission for Europe

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment
in a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Implementation Committee

Fifty-seventh session

Geneva, 29 August–1 September 2023

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifty-seventh session

To be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, starting at 10 a.m.
on Tuesday, 29 August 2023*

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties.
3. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–e.
4. Submissions.
5. Committee initiatives.
6. Information gathering.
7. Review of implementation.
8. Structure, functions and operating rules.

* Members of the Committee are requested to register online at least two weeks before the start of the meeting, i.e. by **14 August 2023**, through the following link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1002195/>. Should any difficulties be encountered when attempting to register, please email the secretariat (eia.conv@un.org; maricar.delacruz@un.org).



9. Other business.
10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

1. The present provisional agenda was prepared by the secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in agreement with the Implementation Committee Chair, in accordance with rule 9 of the Implementation Committee's operating rules.¹ The Implementation Committee under the Convention and the Protocol will be invited to adopt the present agenda.

2. Preparations for the next sessions of the Meetings of the Parties

2. Discussions under agenda item 2 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

3. In accordance with its structure and functions² and its operating rules, the Committee is expected to continue and finalize its preparations for the ninth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 12–15 December 2023). In particular, the Committee is expected to complete the Committee's report on its activities during the 2021–2023 intersessional period and to finalize the draft decisions on the review of compliance with the Convention and the Protocol, considering possible comments from the delegations at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023) and any other information received, as it deems appropriate.

3. Follow-up to decisions VIII/4 a–e³

4. Discussions under agenda item 3 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

5. The Committee is expected to follow up on actions to be taken by the concerned Parties further to:

(a) Decision VIII/4a on compliance by Armenia with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(b) Decision VIII/4b on compliance by Azerbaijan with its obligations under the Convention in respect of its national legislation;

(c) Decision VIII/4c on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Belarusian nuclear power plant in Ostrovets;

(d) Decision VIII/4d on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the Danube-Black Sea Deep Water Navigation Canal in the Ukrainian sector of the Danube Delta;

¹ Available at https://unece.org/DAM/env/eia/documents/ImplementationCommittee/2014_Structure_and_functions/Implementation_Committee_structure_functions_procedures_rules.e_2014.pdf.

² Ibid.

³ Available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/decisions-taken-meetings-parties>.

(e) Decision VIII/4e on compliance by Ukraine with its obligations under the Convention in respect of the extension of the lifetime of units 1 and 2 of Rivne nuclear power plant.

4. Submissions

6. Discussions under agenda item 4 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, further to rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

7. The Committee will begin its consideration of the submission by Belarus expressing concerns about compliance by Poland with its obligations under the Convention with respect to the construction of a barrier on the territory of the transboundary United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site “Bialowieza Forest”, dated 12 April 2023.

8. The Committee will also examine any submissions by Parties received since the Committee’s previous session.

5. Committee initiatives

9. Discussions under agenda item 5 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

10. Further to the informal consultations with Ukraine at the Committee’s fifty-sixth session (Geneva, 2–5 May 2023),⁴ the Committee will continue the consideration of its initiative concerning the construction of a large tourism complex (Svydovets mountains, Ukraine) close to the borders with Hungary and Romania.

11. Further to the opening of a Committee initiative at the Committee’s fifty-sixth session regarding the national legislation of Belarus to implement the Convention,⁵ the Committee is expected to finalize its draft findings and recommendations on compliance by Belarus with its obligations under the Convention, taking into account the comments and representations requested from the Party concerned by 31 July 2023.

6. Information gathering

12. Discussions under agenda item 6 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

13. Following the informal consultations with Ukraine at the Committee’s fifty-sixth session,⁶ the Committee will continue its consideration of the information it has gathered concerning the planned construction of nuclear reactors 3 and 4 of Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant in Ukraine and concerning activities at Muzhiyev goldmine in Ukraine.

14. The Committee will also continue its consideration of the information it has gathered concerning the lifetime extension of Borssele nuclear power plant (Netherlands), the lifetime extension of 12 power units located at Rivne, South-Ukrainian, Zaporizhzhya and Khmelnytsky nuclear power plants (Ukraine) and 32 units of Blayais, Bugey, Chinon, Cruas, Dampierre, Gravelines, St. Laurent and Tricastin nuclear power plants (France).

7. Review of implementation

15. Discussions under agenda item 7 will not be open to observers, unless the Committee decides otherwise, in accordance with rule 17 (1) of its operating rules.

⁴ ECE/EIA/MP.IC/2023/4, paras. 86–88.

⁵ Ibid., para. 41.

⁶ Ibid., paras. 82–85 and 89–92.

16. Time permitting, the Committee will continue its consideration of the specific compliance issues concerning:

(a) Kyrgyzstan, identified through the sixth review of the implementation of the Convention;⁷

(b) Serbia, identified through the second review of the implementation of the Protocol;⁸

(c) North Macedonia, identified through the third review of the implementation of the Protocol.⁹

8. Structure, functions and operating rules

17. Further to the Committee's deliberations at its fifty-fourth (Geneva, 4–7 October 2022), fifty-fifth (Geneva (online), 31 January–3 February 2023) and fifty-sixth sessions, and in accordance with paragraph 18 of decision VIII/4¹⁰ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention, paragraph 14 of decision IV/4¹¹ of the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocol and subsection II.A.3 of the workplan for 2021–2023,¹² the Committee is expected to finalize its review of its structure and functions and its operating rules, considering possible comments from the delegations at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment (Geneva, 13–15 June 2023), as it deems appropriate, with a view to submitting its proposals for possible amendments for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties at their next sessions.

9. Other business

18. Members of the Committee wishing to raise any other business should contact the secretariat as soon as possible.

10. Presentation of the main decisions taken and closing of the session

19. The Committee is expected to agree on the main decisions taken at the meeting and to confirm the date and location of its next session before the Chair formally closes the session.

⁷ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/8, paras. 15–16.

⁸ ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2017/9, paras. 37–39.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/8, para. 56.

¹⁰ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.2–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.2.

¹¹ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

¹² ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2, annex I.